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Message Text

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17
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 TRSE-00 SEC-01 STR-04 OPIC-03 IO-11 JUSE-00

/079 W
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P 061156Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3756

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2795

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSC EINV, PFOR
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED: CORRUPT PRACTICES AND NIGERIA

REF: STATE 54841

1. WE DELIVERED INGERSOLL STATEMENT ON CORRUPT PRACTICES THIS MORNING TO MEA OFFICIALS, WHO SAID THEY WOULD TRANSMIT IT IMMEDIATELY TO HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO. THEY WANT OUR ADVICE REGARDING NEXT STEPS FMG SHOULD TAKE.

2. ONE OF DIMKA'S PROFESSED CONSIDERATIONS IN WISHING OVERTURN MUHAMMED REGIME WAS EXTENT OF CORRUPTION THAT HE CHARGED HAD INFECTED TOP FMG LEADERS. OBASANJO IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY CITED IN THIS CONNECTION IN THE PORTION OF DIMKA'S FEBRUARY 13 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE INADVERTENTLY FAILED TO RECORD ON THE TAPE. OBASANJO IS THUS DOUBLY SENSITIVE AT THIS MOMENT TO ANY CIRCUM-STANCES - LIKE THE C-130 SALE -- THAT HIS CRITICS MIGHT EXPLOIT IN AN ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY HIM AS INDIFFERENT TO THE PURSUIT OF WRONG-DOING.

3. WE ANTICIPATE OBASANJO WILL NOW RPT NOW ASK US HOW FMG SHOULD PROCEED TO WORK OUT THE "COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT" FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE MENTIOED IN PARA 22 OF US POLICY STATEMENT. HE WILL
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PROMISE CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED.

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4. DIFFICULT AT THIS POINT TO PREDICT HOW FMG WILL HANDLE THIS MATTER IN LONGER RUN. IF INFORMATION IS OBTAINED THAT IMPLICATES ALREADY DISCREDITED FAT CATS OF FORMER GOWON REGIME, IT COULD BE USED IN EVENTUAL OR ALREADY ONGOING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THEM. ON OTHER HAND, INFORMATION MAY INVOLVE OFFICIALS OR INDIVIDUALS STILL IN GOOD STANDING, IN WHICH CASE FMG WOULD HAVE HARD DECISION TO MAKE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER GUIDANCE.
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